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MINISTRY OF
ATTORNEY
GENERAL

**ANNUAL
REPORT
1997/98**



*Implementing
Justice
Reform*



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Province of British Columbia



May It Please Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to submit to you the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia for the period April 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998.

The ministry began a major reform of British Columbia's justice system in 1996, with the goal of a justice system that is tough, effective, efficient and affordable. Justice reform gathered momentum in 1997, as the ministry implemented or expanded initiatives that were introduced last year, and announced major new initiatives.

New initiatives work best when we all work together. For this reason, a spirit of partnership is a key part of the reform of British Columbia's justice system. Justice reform is moving forward thanks to the hard work and support of many: ministry staff; people in other parts of the justice system, including judges and the Bar; and the numerous community and professional organizations that have taken responsibility for programs.

I believe this report to be an accurate accounting of the Ministry of Attorney General and of the dedicated public servants who administer its programs.

The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Ujjal Dosanjh, written over a horizontal line.

Attorney General



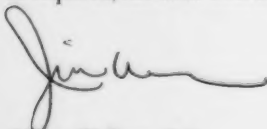
Province of British Columbia

Sir:

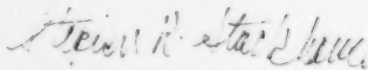
We have the honour to submit the annual report of the Ministry of Attorney General for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1997 and ending March 31, 1998.

This report is an important public record outlining the work of each branch of the ministry and highlighting the ministry's significant achievements over the past year.

The agencies, boards and commissions reported on here are required by statute to report annually, through you, to the legislature. This is not a substitute for those reports. The agencies, boards and commissions will, in the ordinary way, as required, file their own annual reports.



Gillian Wallace, Q.C.
Deputy Attorney General



Stephen Stackhouse
Deputy Minister





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**Part One:
Justice Reform**



1997: Implementing Justice Reform

In November 1996, the Ministry of Attorney General began a major reform of British Columbia's justice system. This was a response to the concerns of British Columbians, who had made it clear that the justice system was not meeting their expectations.

Justice reform gathered momentum in the 1997/98 fiscal year. The ministry implemented or expanded many initiatives that had been developed or introduced in 1996/97, and announced major new initiatives. And the public played a key role in expanding justice

reform and its components to ensure that the changes will meet their needs.

The goal of justice reform in B.C. is a justice system that reflects the priorities of British Columbians and in which they have confidence. It is also a justice

The Components of Justice Reform

The three main components of B.C.'s justice reform are:

- restorative justice in criminal law
- non-adversarial dispute resolution in civil law
- administrative efficiencies in the justice system as a whole.

The first two components—restorative justice in criminal law and non-adversarial dispute resolution in civil law—are intended to enhance the system by creating new options within existing formal justice processes, and by meeting needs often unmet by those processes. They should lead to more satisfying and timely resolutions and a more effective system for both individuals and society. They will also help foster healthier communities.

The third component—administrative change—involves the use of new technologies, renewed partnerships and reinvestment in creating a more effective, efficient and accessible justice system for British Columbians.

system that safeguards the fundamental principles of:

- fairness to all parties
- accessibility to all community members
- partnership
- efficiency
- effectiveness, and
- affordability.

In reforming the justice system over the coming years, the ministry will continue to be guided by the priorities of public safety and security, effective and affordable conflict resolution, and crime prevention and early intervention.

Justice reform and the Corrections Branch

A major component of justice reform in B.C. is related to correctional responses to crime. The three main priorities for the Corrections Branch in 1997 were:

- ensuring safe communities
- providing opportunities for offenders to change
- helping families to resolve conflict.

In the spring of 1997, the branch made the most significant structural changes it has undergone in several years. The changes realign the branch's resources to reflect the needs of victims and deal with serious offenders, thereby shifting its approach to correctional responses within a justice reform context. The branch's new mission

statement is "to protect the community through offender management, offender control and conflict resolution."

The branch reorganized into five new divisions, simplifying its administrative structure while advancing the goal of providing specialized services to meet community needs across the province. When fully implemented, in 1998, the reorganization will improve offender monitoring, reduce recidivism and increase efficiency. The branch will continue to address alternatives to custody.

The branch also announced eight planned core programs that will address the factors that cause offenders to commit crimes. The programs are specialized interventions dealing with motivation, cognitive skills, anger management, family violence, substance abuse, sex offenders, educational upgrading, and living skills. Three of the programs (motivation, anger management and substance abuse) are in various stages of implementation. Development of the remaining five continues. The programs are designed to work in tandem with risk/needs assessments, which help staff determine the risk an offender presents to the community and how best to apply available resources, and which will also help staff decide which of the core programs will best suit individual offenders. They will allow resources to be channeled into working with high risk and violent offenders, while still addressing the needs of other offenders.

Justice reform consultation

Between September 1997 and March 1998, the Attorney General, the Deputy Minister and several assistant deputy ministers talked with ministry staff and the public in many parts of the province about justice reform. As part of the tour, the ministry distributed an information package and an evaluation form for gathering information on public priorities for the justice system.

Results taken from the evaluation form show that the public thinks the justice system is working well in these areas:

- the use of mediation and other forms of dispute resolution
- local initiatives that feature community involvement, including community policing
- access to the court system in the North and the Interior
- transfer of intoxicated/non-criminal persons from corrections to the Ministry of Health
- family justice initiatives, including the Parenting After Separation program.

The public would like to see:

- better public information
- more effective communication and consultation with staff
- the ability to regionalize standard programs and justice reform initiatives, in order to accommodate the specific needs of the region served by the program

- additional resources and greater clarity on the allocation of funding
- increased staff levels, equitable access, and court system accountability for providing the expected level of service
- less travel for services
- more support programs and activities for youth at risk, and earlier intervention
- more consistency in diversion programs
- more services and programs for violent offenders, and increased availability of existing resources
- more services for victims after the offender is sentenced
- community re-entry programs that are more cost-efficient
- a reduction in the backlog of court cases in the Lower Mainland
- a unified court system for Abbotsford, Maple Ridge and Chilliwack
- increased use of mediation for family and small claims disputes
- more information and education for the public on ministry-related issues
- community forums for addressing public concerns.

The evaluation form results reinforced the ministry's existing priorities for justice reform. Many of the justice reform initiatives developed in 1997 respond to the needs identified through the tour.

Justice Reform: The Initiatives

The reform of B.C.'s justice system involves a wide range of initiatives. Here are some of the key justice reform initiatives created or expanded in 1997 in the three justice reform streams: criminal justice, civil justice and justice system administration.

Criminal justice

Ensuring public safety

- In 1997, the Attorney General urged the federal government to:
 - amend the Criminal Code, to:
 - raise the age of consent to 16
 - increase the severity of consequences for adults who sexually exploit children
 - increase penalties for stalking, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail, and to make it possible to designate stalkers as dangerous offenders
 - make it easier to return fleeing fugitives to the jurisdiction where they committed crimes
 - enable police to pursue Internet criminals more effectively
 - amend the Young Offenders Act to ensure that more youth involved in violent crime are dealt with in adult court
- allow oral impact statements from victims to be heard by the National Parole Board during parole hearings
- establish a national registry of high-risk, violent and sex offenders to give justice system staff and the public timely, accurate information and protect potential victims
- co-ordinate action on fraud and Internet crime
- harmonize the public complaints process under B.C.'s Police Complaint Commissioner so that all complaints against police in B.C., both municipal and RCMP, are dealt with through B.C.'s police complaints legislation.
- In order to employ the full weight of the traditional justice system to protect the public from high-risk, violent offenders, the ministry created a new criminal identification system called the B.C. Offender and Career Criminal Program, to help pinpoint dangerous criminals and aid in their prosecution.
- B.C. also participates in the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS), a nation-wide computer system that allows police to cross-

reference details of murders and sexual crimes, and identify serial offenders.

- The ministry approved the use of a new offender tracking system (CORNET) that will gather more information on offenders, to allow for more complete decision-making, more current and accurate risk assessments, and better management of offenders. The system will help to focus resources on offenders who pose the greatest risk to the community.
- The ministry entered into an agreement with the Vancouver Port Corporation to ensure continued policing of Lower Mainland ports.
- July saw the launch of B.C.'s first province-wide weapons amnesty. More than 2,700 firearms and 116,000 rounds of ammunition were voluntarily turned in to police.

More effective policing

- Specialized police units are dealing with such priority issues as unsolved homicides, home invasions, prostitution and hate crime. For example, in May 1997 the ministry allocated \$150,000 to support a police team dedicated to preventing home invasions and solving home invasion cases in the Lower Mainland.

Hate Crime Team

In April of 1997, the Attorney General established the new Hate Crime Team, with a mandate to:

- ensure the effective identification, investigation and prosecution of crimes motivated by hate
- help communities identify and respond to hate activity.

The team consists of two full-time police officers, with support from a prosecutor as well as a management team from the Ministry of Attorney General, the Vancouver Police Department and the RCMP. The team provides public information on hate crimes to encourage local reporting of these crimes to the police. It also works closely with Multiculturalism BC to assist local communities in dealing with racism and hate activities.

In June 1997, the Hate Crime Team produced a provincial enforcement policy for hate crime, which served as the basis for training 1200 police officers across the province.

- New regulations guide police in high-risk situations, including the use of restraints, deadly force and high-speed pursuits.
- The provincial Hate Crime Team, established in 1996, is delivering police training sessions on hate crime, to help police prevent crimes based on hatred and prejudice, and deal with the enforcement issues presented by hate crime.

Better serving victims' needs

- B.C. has the most comprehensive and best-funded victim services in Canada, with an extensive network of about 150 programs across the province and a province-wide, toll-free Victims' Information Line that provides information, referrals and support for victims of crime.
- B.C.'s Victims of Crime Act is the strongest victims' rights legislation in the country. The act gives victims of crime:
 - an active and crucial role in justice processes
 - the right to information about their cases, from investigation through prosecution, including the right to be informed about the status of the charged person or offender
 - the right to make impact statements during provincial parole hearings.
- A new surcharge on fines issued to people who break provincial laws is

earmarked to meet obligations under the Victims of Crime Act and other victims initiatives. The victim surcharge levy was implemented on July 1, 1997, and by October 1997, more than 100 police-based and specialized victim services programs had received \$1.2 million in additional funding as a result.

- The Violence Against Women in Relationships policy ensures that this type of crime is treated seriously, consistently and effectively by the justice system. In an initiative developed under the policy, a protection order registry protects women, children and other victims of violence in relationships from further distress.
- In November, the ministry initiated a pilot project in Vancouver that provides cell phones pre-programmed to dial 911 for women at high risk of relationship violence.
- A Victim Notification Unit was created in 1997 to notify registered victims of the releases and transfers of specific offenders in provincial custody.

Holding low-risk offenders accountable

- In February 1998, the ministry created a \$1 million fund and introduced a two-year pilot Community Accountability Program to increase the use of community-based, victim-supported alternatives

for low-risk offenders. Options for offenders include carrying out community service projects and helping to pay back victims and communities for property loss and damage. The project gives advice and up to \$5,000 in start-up grants to communities wanting to create their own community accountability programs for less serious crimes.

- The ministry is promoting the increased use of alternative measures by Crown counsel. Through a program introduced in January 1998, Crown counsel use a pre-trial procedure to divert some lower-risk offenders away from the traditional court system. The offender may accept responsibility for the offence and agree to participate in an alternative measures program. If the offender then fails to meet the terms of the alternative measures agreement, he or she can be returned to court for traditional prosecution.
- Youth action teams, which were introduced in 1996, now exist in more than 69 communities to involve youth in creating safer neighbourhoods. Youth action teams develop and co-ordinate crime and violence prevention projects, which involve peer mentoring, positive role modelling, conflict resolution, problem solving and community leadership.
- The Youth Against Violence Line (1-800-680-4264) is a province-wide, toll-free youth violence and prevention line that provides a safe, confidential way for young people to get information and report and prevent crime. The line also connects youth with youth action teams and the Taking a Stand Youth Action Kit, which helps youth to address violence in their communities.
- Total Respect Of Others (TROO), an anti-racism youth group introduced in May 1997, presents interactive workshops for schools and community groups throughout B.C. The workshops address racism and hate issues through role playing, theatre games and audience participation.
- The B.C. Safe School Centre opened in December 1997 to provide information on safe school issues, including personal safety, crime and violence prevention, and early intervention for youth at risk. The centre was the first in a series of school safety initiatives.

Crime prevention and early intervention

Crime prevention and early intervention initiatives encourage positive lifestyle choices for youth. The ministry is funding youth groups across the province to provide more than 100 local crime prevention projects, and various prevention programs for youth at risk are offered by the Community Justice Branch. Initiatives include:

Additional criminal justice reform initiatives

- Police in Victoria and Abbotsford will be required to work less overtime through the reduction of visits police and witnesses make to court for small matters such as guilty pleas or adjournments. This will also make the court system more efficient and cost-effective. The Victoria project, initiated in November 1997, will be finished and evaluated in late 1998.
- The ministries of Attorney General and Health are leading an inter-ministry approach to reduce the frequency with which mentally

Addressing Sexual Exploitation

In 1997/98, the Ministry of Attorney General targeted prostitution issues and the sexual exploitation of youth across the province by providing police with enforcement assistance and supporting local communities in a variety of ways. Here are some of the ministry's key initiatives:

- The Provincial Prostitution Unit worked with police agencies across the province to build expertise on enforcement operations against adults buying sex from youth. The unit helped to establish or assisted 10 community action teams across B.C., which are working to identify local prostitution issues and develop strategies for addressing them.
- The ministry brought together 150 community representatives from across the province to attend a community forum at the International Summit on Sexually Exploited Youth (Out From the Shadows), held in Victoria in March 1998.
- The Attorney General lobbied the federal government for changes to the Criminal Code that would make it easier to arrest adults who buy sex from youth. The federal government responded with changes that didn't go far enough to meet the needs of police, although the Minister of Justice has expressed a commitment to bring in the necessary additional reforms at the first legislative opportunity. At the same time, however, increased public awareness, police training and more effective enforcement have allowed police across B.C. to hold those who sexually exploit youth more accountable for their actions. Charges against men buying sex from youth have risen from an average of one a year to 25 in the two years the Provincial Prostitution Unit has been in operation.

disordered people recycle through the justice system.

- The province-wide photo radar program has been effective in reducing high vehicle speeds especially in high-crash/high-speed locations. To increase its effectiveness, the program has been expanded to take pictures of the front licence plate of speeding vehicles on high-commercial traffic sites.
- The government introduced a number of enforcement programs to get tough on drivers, including escalating speed fines, vehicle impoundment, administrative driving prohibition, lifetime suspensions for impaired driving, and the increased use of CounterAttack. The ministry also created a new 12-member task force aimed at deterring auto crime, to operate for an initial three-year term.
- The Provincial Prostitution Unit continues to target people who exploit youth, through tough enforcement efforts, including witness protection strategies and programs that support youth who want to testify and/or want to leave the sex trade.

Civil justice

- The Dispute Resolution Office, created in December 1996, continued to promote the expanded use of

dispute resolution programs in the court system and in government.

The office:

- continued to research dispute resolution options
- continued development of a publicly accessible roster of B.C. mediators
- began developing the Notice to Mediate process for motor vehicle cases
- worked with the Ministry for Children and Families to develop a child protection mediation program.
- Family justice centres have been established in 31 communities across the province to help promote timely and fair resolution of family and marital disputes outside the traditional court process. The centres provide mediation services for families, with family court counsellors' services focused on providing dispute resolution for clients of modest means.
- To address family maintenance issues, ministry staff continued to research provincial initiatives and guidelines to ensure they are compatible with federal child support guidelines that came into effect on May 1, 1997 under the Divorce Act. The child support guidelines are intended to make it faster, easier and less expensive for parents to arrive at an amount of support to be paid, often without seeking a lawyer's assistance. This

replaces an earlier system that often involved long and expensive litigation. The new guidelines led to in changes to the Family Relations Act and the Family Maintenance Enforcement Act during the 1997 legislative session. The changes implement the use of standardized support guidelines, stricter enforcement of child support orders, and a wider definition of *common-law spouse* to include same-sex couples.

- The ministry increased administrative enforcement measures to reduce court-based enforcement of maintenance orders. The new measures include:
 - reporting payors who default on their maintenance payments to credit bureaus
 - preventing the issue or renewal of drivers' licences for delinquent payors
 - enforcing maintenance arrears directly against corporations owned by payors in default
 - garnisheeing pension benefits.
- In December 1997, 13 new service providers began offering Parenting After Separation programs, bringing the number of communities offering the program to 50. The program aims to provide increased support for families whose lives are disrupted by separation, through a three-hour information session that informs parents of the full range of available family dispute resolution options, including alternatives to the traditional court process. In a pilot

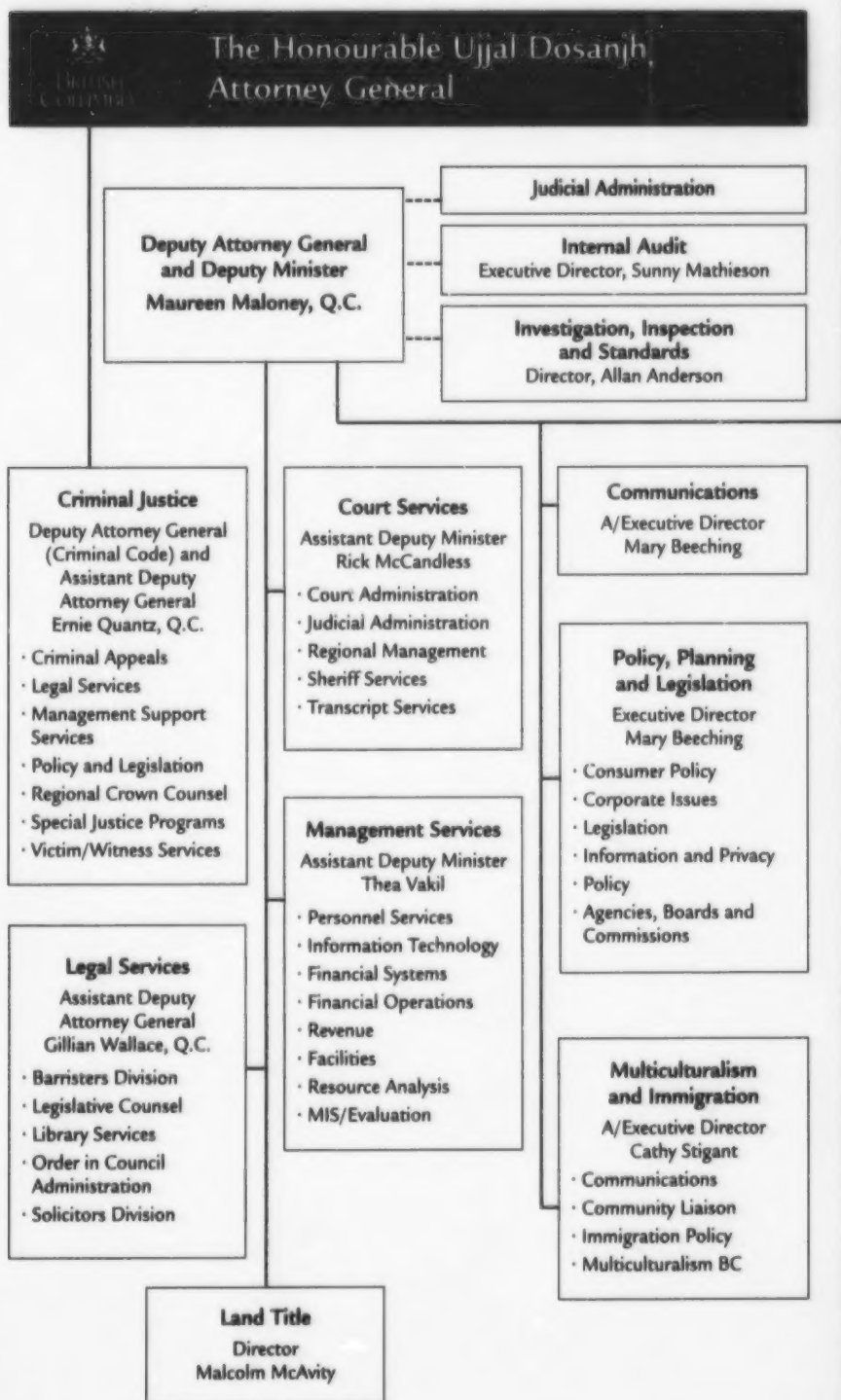
project to begin in Burnaby and New Westminster in June 1998, parents will be required to attend the Parenting After Separation session before a court date for their dispute will be set, in an attempt to divert their cases away from the traditional system and encourage non-litigated settlements.

Justice system administration

- The ministry is using innovative technology to streamline the handling of court documents, justice administration and proceedings. Amendments to the Court Rules Act introduced in the legislature in June 1997 address the use of electronic records, video-conferencing and teleconferencing in civil and Offence Act proceedings. Use of these technologies increases flexibility in scheduling court appearances, reducing waiting periods for court dates and minimizing court delays. The amendments also allow police to file charges electronically; and as the case unfolds, the proceedings, the court's final decision, and the sentence imposed are entered into an electronic database, providing police and corrections officers with immediate access to the information.
- JUSTIN, the justice information system developed by the ministry, began its pilot phase in Port Coquitlam and Kelowna. The system enhances public safety by:

- providing a single database for obtaining key information about all civil and criminal cases arising in the province
 - establishing a province-wide case tracking process
 - facilitating document production standardization and streamlined workflow.
- The Crown Counsel Operational Review (CCORP) is one of several projects working towards improvements in the management of criminal cases. CCORP is aimed at making Crown counsel more efficient by streamlining and improving processes planned for the new Vancouver jail facility. The ministry completed an analysis of Crown counsel process in September 1997, and had designed new operating models by November 1997. A transition plan is now being developed.
 - In order to encourage people involved in litigation to explore out-of-court options for resolving civil disputes, the ministry announced new civil court fees that will more closely reflect civil court costs. The fees will help fund new court technologies, additional provincial court judges, and two satellite courts in the future.
 - In response to a report on court backlogs by Provincial Court Chief Judge Robert Metzger in April 1997, the ministry introduced several reform initiatives to make the criminal justice system more efficient. As an interim measure to reduce the backlog, the ministry implemented a four-part plan, which included the appointment of five new judges, funding for retired judges to sit part-time, and the creation of a case management task force and a joint justice committee. The ministry also reopened courts at Ganges and Ashcroft.
 - A new case management system for criminal and family matters was implemented at pilot sites in an effort to improve court capacity and efficiency by increasing the probability that court dates are firm.
 - The ministry continued work on providing improved and more efficient facilities:
 - The Prince George Law Courts officially opened in September 1997. The new facility contains five Supreme Court and five provincial court courtrooms, with one of the Supreme Court courtrooms designed to accommodate the Court of Appeal when it sits in Prince George. The facility also houses sheriff services, adult and youth probation and family court counselling services, the Crown counsel office, the British Columbia Courthouse Library Society, the Law Courts Education Society, and the Legal Aid Society, among others. It provides services for Prince George, MacKenzie, Fort Ware, Tsay-Keh, McBride and Valemont.

- In response to a need identified in 1996, the ministry struck a committee to provide advice on a proposed Fraser Valley regional justice centre.
- Construction of a new North Fraser pretrial centre continued. Located in Port Coquitlam, the 300-bed secure unit for remand offenders is expected to be ready for use in 2000.
- Construction also continued on the 85-bed Vancouver Jail project, a joint initiative with the City of Vancouver.





Corrections

Assistant Deputy Minister
Don Demers

- Adult Custody
- Community Corrections
- Conditional Release
- Family Justice Services
- Strategic Planning and Corporate Programs

Community Justice

Assistant Deputy Minister
Alison MacPhail

- ADR/Mediation
- Consumer Services
- Core Funding
- Crime Prevention
- FMEP/REMO
- Justice Development
- Legal Aid
- Native Courtworkers
- Police Victim Assistance
- Wife Assault
- Youth Programs

Public Safety and Regulatory

Assistant Deputy Minister
Stephen Stackhouse

- Aboriginal Justice
- Criminal Records Review
- Film Classification
- Gaming Audit Investigations Office
- Police Services
- Provincial Emergency Program
- RCMP Contract Administration
- Security Programs

Liquor Control and Licensing

General Manager
Robert Simson

Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit

Director
Peter Engstad



**Part Two:
Programs and
Services**



Communications Branch

Executive Director: Mary Beeching

The Communications Branch manages the ministry's communications activities, including researching and analyzing the information needs of ministry programs, services and major initiatives.

The branch creates and executes strategic ministry communications plans and develops and distributes public information materials, pamphlets and brochures for both staff and the general public.

Along with the branches involved, the

Communications Branch co-manages:

- media relations
- issues management
- news releases
- news conferences
- special events.

The branch is responsible for:

- ministry advertising and promotions
- assessing public response to ministry programs
- monitoring and evaluating ministry communications activities.

Community Justice Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Alison MacPhail

The Community Justice Branch works in partnership with diverse communities to:

- ensure that British Columbians have timely access to justice and consumer services and resolution of residential tenancy disputes
- develop and manage locally appropriate crime prevention, justice reform, community safety and consumer protection services.
- managing the ministry's funding contributions to the Legal Services Society
- liaising with the Legal Services Society, other government and non-government organizations, and the public.

The branch serves the public directly through crime prevention, family maintenance enforcement, victim assistance, consumer protection and residential tenancy dispute resolution programs. It also:

- funds and administers various contracts for justice-related services
- contributes substantial funding to the Legal Services Society to ensure that legal aid services are available throughout the province.

Justice Programs Division

The Justice Programs Division ensures that legal services for needy British Columbians are available everywhere in the province and are provided in the most effective and efficient ways possible, by:

Community Programs Division

The Community Programs Division supports the development and implementation of community-based crime and violence prevention programs and justice initiatives across the province. The programs foster youth and community involvement at all levels and rely on partnerships with police, schools, businesses and the community.

The division provides services in four major areas:

- preventing community crime and violence
- preventing youth crime, violence and victimization
- preventing youth sexual exploitation and addressing and preventing community issues arising from prostitution
- implementing and supporting community justice initiatives.

Key accomplishments

- established the ministry's Community Accountability Program initiative, providing resources and a full-time provincial co-ordinator
- established the B.C. Safe School Centre and, with the Ministry of Education, established the Safe Schools/Safe Communities Initiative
- contributed approximately \$3,425,000 in community crime prevention and community justice service grants
- co-ordinated over 3,650 workshops in elementary, secondary and alternative schools; youth and community organizations; and detention centres
- developed over 216 youth-led crime and violence prevention projects across the province

Family Justice Programs Division

The Family Justice Programs Division is responsible for:

- the Family Maintenance Enforcement Program (FMEP)—enrols, monitors, and enforces maintenance orders and registered agreements that require individuals to provide continuing financial support to their families
- the Reciprocals Program—has a statutory responsibility to designate

courts within the province of B.C., and transmits documents to reciprocating jurisdictions for the purposes of confirming, varying, and enforcing maintenance orders and agreements

- the Family Search Service—has statutory authority to search for missing individuals to obtain, vary or enforce custody, access, guardianship or maintenance orders
- the Client Relations Program—provides information and investigates complaints about the programs of Family Justice Programs Division.

Key accomplishments

- 35,843 cases were enrolled in the FMEP as of March 31, 1998, an increase of 12.6 per cent over 1996/97, and staff collected a total of \$86.3 million over the year
- introduced new administrative enforcement measures to include registration against personal corporations, credit bureau reporting, registration of maintenance claims in the Personal Property Registry, and drivers' licence refuse-to-issue provisions
- introduced new provisions to charge payors who default twice in any one calendar year an annual default fee, which is intended to recover some of the costs that government incurs to collect maintenance owed to children and families

- introduced an automated case processing system with assistance from the Federal Enforcement Fund for reciprocal cases moving in and out of B.C.

Residential Tenancy Division

Six Residential Tenancy Division offices encourage and actively promote harmonious relationships in the rental community, by providing:

- information services for landlords and tenants to assist them in residential tenancy matters
- dispute resolution interventions where clients request assistance.

The offices also provide mediation for clients in manufactured home parks and arbitration hearings for clients who are unable to resolve their own disputes.

Key accomplishments

- held over 24,000 hearings without delays or backlogs
- produced a video, "Window on the Process," explaining arbitration as an informal and accessible process available to all landlords and tenants, with funding from the ministry and the Law Foundation of British Columbia, and support of stakeholder groups
- organized professional development workshops for information officers

for the first time, and provided two professional development sessions for arbitrators

- provided intervention services for 472 landlords or tenants, with the majority of interventions resulting in the resolution of the dispute, thereby avoiding arbitration

Consumer Services Division

The Consumer Services Division promotes fairness and understanding in the marketplace by developing and enforcing consumer legislation, which includes both consumer protection and industry regulation. The division also administers a variety of acts, including:

- Cemetery and Funeral Services Act
- Consumer Protection Act
- Credit Reporting Act
- Debt Collection Act
- Guide Animal Act
- Motor Dealer Act
- Multilevel Marketing Regulation Act
- Sale of Goods Act
- Trade Practices Act
- Travel Agents Act.

Key accomplishments

- successfully completed several high-profile investigations into deceptive business practices by foreign lottery ticket resellers, advance fee loan companies and travel clubs, many of which garnered local, national and international media attention
- implemented a regulation of the Consumer Protection Act that includes travel club memberships in the definition of "contract for future services," to ensure that all companies offering travel club memberships abide by the provisions of the act
- received 4,769 specific complaints under the Debt Collection Act, 633 of which were written complaints that resulted in 11 formal proceedings against agencies exerting excessive and undue pressure while collecting
- obtained an estimated \$1,355,707 in monetary restitution, compared with approximately \$1,192,000 in 1996/97
- funds police-based victim service programs and community-based specialized victim service programs throughout B.C.
- operates a province-wide, toll-free Victims' Information Line that provides victims of crime with access to information and referrals to services and programs available within their community
- provides training for both paid and volunteer victim service workers who deliver direct services to victims throughout the province
- develops policy in the areas of violence against women in relationships, sexual assault and child abuse and neglect, and provides training for justice system personnel in these areas.

Key accomplishments

- provided emotional support, information about the criminal justice system, and court orientation for more than 58,095 crime victims through victim service programs
- provided \$1.2 million in additional funding, generated through the victim surcharge levy, to over 100 existing victim service programs, for their role in implementing the Victims of Crime Act
- implemented many programs and initiatives to stop violence against women and children, including:

Victim Services Division

The Victim Services Division works to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of crime victims. The division:

- is responsible for the Criminal Injury Compensation Program and for implementing the Victims of Crime Act

- a pilot Cell Phone Initiative in the Lower Mainland for women at high risk of violence, through a partnership involving a community service agency, private security companies and local police
- participated in the development and distribution of a new inter-ministry B.C. Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect
- provided funding for legal representation for any victim whose records are subject to an application under Bill C-46, an amendment to the Criminal Code that restricts access to medical, counselling, therapeutic and other personal records of complainants in sexual offence prosecutions

Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit

Director: Peter Engstad

The Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit (CLEU) combats organized and major crime in B.C. Members of the RCMP and municipal police forces are seconded to the unit to carry out investigations. A civilian Policy Analysis Division:

- provides technical, analytical and other support
- provides government with policy advice on all aspects of organized crime control
- liaises with Canadian and foreign police and law enforcement agencies
- leads the development of provincial and national policy and legislation aimed at controlling organized crime.

CLEU also includes Criminal Intelligence Services of B.C., which provides:

- tactical and strategic services for CLEU and other enforcement/regulatory agencies
- links with Criminal Intelligence Service Canada.

Corrections Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Don Demers

The Corrections Branch delivers provincial institutional and community-based correctional programs. The branch:

- operates:
 - 19 adult correctional centres
 - an electronic monitoring program for adults
 - 63 probation offices
- accommodates:
 - all adults remanded in custody and awaiting trial
 - all women sentenced to imprisonment
 - all men sentenced to imprisonment for less than two years
- supervises:
 - accused persons on bail, probation, conditional sentences or conditional releases
 - offenders sentenced to probation or released on parole by the B.C. Board of Parole
- administers victim restitution, community work service and diversion programs
- provides assistance and mediation services for families who need help in resolving child custody and access issues

- provides reports and assessments for the court on adult offenders, victims and sentencing options.

Key accomplishments

- transferred direct programs and services for youth to the new Ministry for Children and Families, as part of the government-wide response to Judge Gove's report on services to children in B.C.
- completed training for and introduced Risk/Needs Assessment (RNA) as a key component of offender management (RNA is a tool that helps staff determine the offender's likelihood of reoffending, the appropriate custody or supervision level, and the factors contributing to criminal conduct)
- outlined the Core Programs designed to work with Risk/Needs Assessment (the programs are specialized interventions that deal with motivation, cognitive skills, anger management, family violence, substance abuse, sex offenders, release preparation, and support during transition from custody)
- focused the delivery of services to families experiencing marital breakdown or conflict regarding custody, access and maintenance on dispute resolution services and Parenting After Separation programs

Corrections Branch Reorganization

In 1997/98, the Corrections Branch completed a major reorganization of programs, resources and responsibilities from a regional to a functional model. This was the most profound organizational change for corrections in B.C. in many years and will allow the branch to deliver its programs more efficiently and effectively.

The branch realigned its activities into five new divisions:

- **Adult Custody**—Operates seven secure, two medium, eight specialized and two community correctional centres providing appropriate levels of custody and core programming for offenders awaiting trial or serving a provincial custodial sentence.
- **Community Corrections**—Operates 63 probation offices across the province, supervising about 21,000 offenders on any given day. The division oversees conditional release programs and provides the court with reports and assessments about adult offenders, victims, and sentencing options. It administers victim restitution, community work service and diversion programs.
- **Provincial Releasing Authority**—Prepares assessments for offenders applying for parole and provides the B.C. Board of Parole with policy and administrative support.
- **Family Justice**—Operates family justice centres in 31 B.C. communities. Family justice counsellors assist families going through separation with child custody and access and child and spousal maintenance issues. The division provides dispute resolution services and custody and access reports, primarily for families of modest means. It also delivers the new Parenting After Separation program, available free of charge to all separating parents in B.C.
- **Strategic Planning and Corporate Programs**—Provides support, advice and co-ordination across the branch, and is responsible for research, data, information systems, and budget and contract administration.

Court Services Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Rick McCandless

The Court Services Branch provides and maintains courthouse facilities, registry and trial support services, and sheriff services for the civil and criminal courts of B.C.

Regional Court Operations

Through its five regional offices across the province, the Court Services Branch administers B.C.'s 94 provincial courts, 41 Supreme Courts and five Appeal Courts. These offices provide:

- regional management
- court administration—including processing documents, maintaining court files, managing court facilities, and providing general administration inside the courtroom
- judicial administration—including scheduling trials and supplying justices of the peace and Supreme Court and small claims court registrars
- sheriff services
- transcript services.

Branch Headquarters

Branch headquarters provides planning and development services in areas such as corporate re-engineering, policies and programs, and finance and information technology.

Key accomplishments

- continued pilot video-conferencing projects that enable court appearances via video technology
- implemented audio recording in the Supreme Court
- enhanced operational efficiency by reducing the number of court regions from six to five
- opened the new Prince George Courthouse in April 1997
- began construction of new facilities for the Vancouver Criminal Court at 222 Main Street
- invested in new technology to expand the use of the JUSTIN case tracking system

Criminal Justice Branch

Assistant Deputy Attorney General: Ernie Quantz, Q.C.

The Criminal Justice Branch prosecutes offences under:

- the Criminal Code of Canada
- the Young Offenders Act
- provincial statutes
- certain municipal bylaws

in the provincial, supreme and appeal courts of British Columbia and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Throughout the prosecution process, the branch offers services to victims of crime who have suffered serious emotional or physical trauma by addressing their needs for information, court preparation and referral to appropriate community agencies.

The functions and duties of Crown counsel and the branch are set out in the Crown Counsel Act, which also governs the relationship between the Assistant Deputy Attorney General and the Attorney General.

As head of the branch, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General:

- is responsible for administration of the branch and ensuring the branch fulfills its responsibilities under the Crown Counsel Act
- acts as Deputy Attorney General for

purposes of the Criminal Code of Canada and reports directly to the Attorney General

- is empowered by the Crown Counsel Act to appoint special prosecutors in cases where it is necessary in the public interest.

Branch Headquarters Lawyers

Branch headquarters lawyers:

- provide expert legal advice on criminal law matters to the Attorney General, other Crown counsel, government ministries, and the police
- initiate and develop policies and procedures on issues relating to the prosecution of cases
- participate in the development of federal and provincial legislation
- provide prosecution in both official languages when required to do so.

Criminal Appeals Office

Crown counsel in the Criminal Appeals Office have conduct of criminal appeals before the British Columbia Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Branch Regions

The Criminal Justice Branch has 45 offices in five regions across the province:

- Vancouver Island
- Vancouver and the Lower Mainland
- New Westminster and the Fraser Valley
- the Interior and Kootenays
- Prince George and the North.

Key accomplishments

- assumed a leading role in developing the Provincial Prostitution Unit and provided extensive training and resources to address the sexual exploitation of youth
- chaired the Hate Crime Team made up of Crown counsel, police, ministry policy and planning and multiculturalism officials
- began developing a restorative justice program with particular emphasis on assisting Aboriginal communities
- continued working with Information Technology Services Division, Court Services Branch and the police to

implement the JUSTIN provincial case tracking system; the Criminal Justice Branch and Court Services Branch modules of JUSTIN were connected in Kelowna in April 1997, forming an automated link between the Crown counsel office and the court registry—a major step towards an integrated justice system in B.C.; the branch and the RCMP continued to work toward connecting the RCMP module in April 1998

Land Title Branch

Director: J.P. Malcolm McAvity

The Land Title Branch registers ownership of land using the Torrens Land Title Registration System. This system ensures security of title and other interests of land, such as mortgages, life estates, leases, rights of way, easements and liens registered against the land. The branch also provides for the maintenance and continued development of land title computer systems, which allow for ready access to land title information.

Key accomplishments

- received 1,057,000 applications and collected over \$40 million in registration, search and copy fees
- initiated a strategic plan process, which included development of a branch mission statement, goals, supporting strategies, initiatives and tasks, and provided a working framework for branch operations for the next five years

Legal Services Branch

Assistant Deputy Attorney General: Gillian P. Wallace, Q.C.

The Legal Services Branch advises the B.C. government and its ministers and officials on all civil law matters.

and hearings before the Information and Privacy Commissioner

- participate in legal proceedings under the Expropriation Act.

Barristers Division

Lawyers in the Barristers Division appear for government ministries and agencies in every level of court and before tribunals, inquests, arbitrations and other hearings. The division consists of two practice groups:

- barristers in the Civil Litigation Group:
 - conduct litigation on behalf of government
 - represent government in arbitration
 - appear at inquiries and some inquests
- barristers in the Constitutional and Administrative Law Group:
 - provide legal advice and opinions on constitutional and administrative law issues, and issues related to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
 - represent government in litigation related to constitutional issues, legal proceedings that review decisions made by public officials,

Solicitors Division

Lawyers in the Solicitors Division provide legal advice on government operations, legislation and potential lawsuits. Other responsibilities include:

- providing legal advice to government on aboriginal issues, including advice to government negotiators in the treaty process
- representing the government at tribunal hearings and appearing at some inquests
- working with ministries and legislative counsel to prepare government bills, regulations, Orders in Council and ministerial orders
- advising government on international and domestic banking and investment transactions and on large-scale commercial and land transactions
- serving as client service co-ordinators, responsible for working with client ministries to identify and meet each ministry's need for legal services
- advising on and drafting government contracts.

Key accomplishments

- successfully defended against a challenge to Pharmacare's Reference-Based Pricing regime by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (the Province was successful before the B.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, and leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada was refused)
- successfully defended against a constitutional challenge before the Human Rights Tribunal to provisions in the Human Rights Code that prohibit publication of material that is likely to expose groups to hatred or contempt because of race, color, religion, etc.
- successfully defended in the B.C. Supreme Court against test-case constitutional challenges (division of powers and Charter) to the Administrative Driving Prohibitions regime (the matter has since been appealed)
- in consultation with outside counsel, prepared and supported arguments for the position of the Province in the Delgamuukw appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada
- provided legal advice to government on the implications and effects of the decision in Delgamuukw
- offered a 1.5-day course for quasi-judicial decision-makers within the public service, based on a course designed by the British Columbia

Council of Administrative Tribunals for members of independent tribunals

Office of the Legislative Counsel

Lawyers in the Office of the Legislative Counsel:

- draft all government bills for introduction into the Legislative Assembly
- draft regulations and Orders in Council for the government
- advise government on legislative procedure, legislative initiatives proposed by individual ministries, and the conduct of government business in the Legislative Assembly.

The office also includes:

- the Registrar of Regulations, who is responsible for maintaining records and arranging formal publications of all regulations made under the authority of provincial legislation
- a Publications Group, which is responsible for preparing all statutory publications for the Province in conjunction with the Queen's Printer.

Key accomplishments

- completed the new Revised Statutes of British Columbia, a six-year project, which came into force on April 21, 1997 (Statute revisions are intended to consolidate and modernize laws without changing their substantive effect. The special goal of the new revision was to make our statutes more readable for the general public, by replacing unnecessarily legalistic terms and style with more common forms of expression, using gender-neutral terms, and redesigning the statute format using plain language principles.)
- drafted 49 government bills for the 1998 legislative session beginning in March 1998

Management and Administrative Services Division

The Management and Administrative Services Division provides the branch with corporate support services, including:

- administering all contracts for legal services
- maintaining the Legal Services Branch library.

Liquor Control and Licensing Branch

General Manager: Robert C. Simson

The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch is responsible for controlling access to alcohol and encouraging moderation by issuing and transferring licences for the resale and manufacture of liquor. The branch also:

- approves and monitors product advertising
- inspects and educates licensees to ensure that they comply with the law
- maintains public relations with law enforcement, local government and other regulatory agencies
- takes appropriate compliance action for contravention of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act and Regulations
- consults with stakeholders to develop more effective policy and legislation.

Key accomplishments

- developed amendments to the Liquor Control and Licensing Act to permit taking samples of liquor in licensed premises to determine whether illicit liquor is being sold or stored, and worked with the Liquor Distribution Branch and police to conduct inspections of licensed premises to reduce the sale of illicit liquor
- completed new winery regulations to support a streamlined licensing system and require record-keeping and reporting requirements that were developed in consultation with industry

Management Services Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Thea Vakil

The Management Services Branch assists the ministry's Executive Committee and its managers in meeting program objectives and adhering to government and ministry-wide policies and directives.

- Information Technology Services Division
- Management Information and Evaluation Division
- Resource Planning and Analysis Division.

The branch consists of six divisions:

- Facilities Services Division
- Finance and Administration Division
- Personnel Services Division

Internal Audit Division

Executive Director: Sunny Mathieson

The Internal Audit Division is located in the Ministry of Finance and provides services for all ministries. Services provided include:

- performing comprehensive audits and investigations of branches and programs for all ministries (assignments involve such issues as value for money, operational effectiveness and financial management, in addition to investigative audits for possible fraud, impropriety or loss of assets)
- providing ministry management with functional advice and guidance on an ongoing basis.

Multiculturalism and Immigration Branch

Executive Director: Cathy Stigant

The Multiculturalism and Immigration Branch is responsible for:

- promoting multiculturalism and the elimination of racism in B.C. society
- achieving the social and economic integration of immigrants to B.C.
- determining fiscal and social responsibility of the governments of Canada and B.C. with regard to immigration.

Key business functions include:

- taking the lead role in promoting and implementing the B.C. Multiculturalism Act throughout the province
- managing the impact of immigration in the province in order to maximize its social and economic benefits.

The branch also represents the Province in relation to the Canada-British Columbia Agreement for Co-operation on Immigration. Negotiations are aimed at enhancing the provincial roles in immigration and immigrant settlement.

Communications Division

The Communications Division increases public awareness, understanding and support for the social and economic benefits of multiculturalism and immigration to B.C., by developing:

- communications strategies for the government's multiculturalism and immigration programs
- education and outreach projects that inform the public about branch programs and initiatives, and promote such events as B.C. Multiculturalism Week and March 21: Day for the Elimination of Racism.

The division also provides the branch with support services, such as writing and editing, publication production, media relations and event management.

Key accomplishments

- with the B.C. Teachers Federation, launched the Students Rights and Responsibilities Campaign, in December 1997, to assist youth in dealing with racism

Community Liaison Division

The Community Liaison Division:

- provides a community-based focus for the government's funding programs and initiatives related to integration in our communities, including cross-cultural understanding, anti-racism and the successful settlement of newcomers to our province
- works largely through non-profit community organizations, government ministries, and private funding bodies to achieve the government's multiculturalism objectives
- administers four funding programs in support of multiculturalism and immigration.

Key accomplishments

- awarded \$2.5 million to 48 organizations to carry out 111 projects funded for immigrant settlement services
- awarded \$1.2 million to 71 organizations to carry out 102 projects for community anti-racism and multiculturalism projects
- provided \$127,177 to 145 schools representing over 19,600 youths and 22 different heritage languages, and contracted with four organizations for \$42,823 to provide professional

development activities for heritage language instructors

- awarded \$750,000 to 29 organizations whose primary mandate is anti-racism, multiculturalism or immigrant settlement services

Immigration Policy Division

A shift towards greater inclusion of provinces in immigration planning, policy development and program delivery has allowed B.C. to ensure that federal policies and programs meet regional, social and economic objectives. The Immigration Policy Division develops and implements immigration-related policies and programs that maximize the social and economic benefits of immigration to B.C.

The division's priorities include:

- managing the transition of responsibility for immigrant settlement and language training program delivery from the federal government to the B.C. government
- reducing barriers to B.C. labour market integration faced by newcomers
- conducting research on the impact of immigrant settlement issues in B.C.

Key accomplishments

- developed the Immigrant Labour Market Strategy and related pilot projects
- completed research on immigrant language training demand
- assisted the Ministry of Human Resources in creating profiles of immigrants on income assistance
- assisted the Ministry of Human Resources in developing a Memorandum of Understanding between that ministry and Citizenship and Immigration Canada designed to reduce sponsorship breakdowns and provincial income assistance costs

Multiculturalism BC

Multiculturalism BC administers the Multiculturalism Act by implementing policy and programs that promote cross-cultural understanding and work towards the prevention and elimination of racism. Multiculturalism BC also:

- promotes full and effective participation in society consistent with a citizen's rights and responsibilities, and democratic values
- helps non-government and non-profit organizations and private sector businesses to create and implement multicultural policies, and to better serve the needs of B.C.'s culturally diverse population

- works with schools, hospitals and other public institutions to improve services and opportunities for a diverse public, through the Institutional Change Program.

Key accomplishments

- with the Human Rights Commission, hosted consultations and forums with gay, lesbian and transgendered communities on hate crimes and ways to prevent hate activities directed against them
- hosted consultations in Prince George, Prince Rupert and Vancouver with Aboriginal communities to develop local strategies to prevent hate crimes and work toward the elimination of racism
- with the Law Court Education Society, hosted a program focusing on access to justice and multiculturalism
- provided funding, planning and support for the provincial court judges' conference on multiculturalism in November 1997
- hosted a conference on systemic racism, attended by 165 delegates from government, business, labour, universities and community groups

B.C. Eliminates Racism Together Awards

In 1997, the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism created the B.C. Eliminates Racism Together Awards—now called the End Racism Awards. Recipients are youth, other members of the public, community organizations and educational institutions whose efforts and contributions toward increasing cross-cultural understanding and combating racism are having great impact throughout B.C. communities. The recipients are ordinary British Columbians whose extraordinary goals for our society are inclusion, understanding and respect for the religions and cultural heritage of all people.

The End Racism Awards are presented each year on or around March 21. On this date in 1960, police in South Africa killed 69 people peacefully protesting against Apartheid. In commemoration, the United Nations recognizes March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and in solidarity, B.C. each year proclaims March 21 as Day for the Elimination of Racism.

Multiculturalism BC presented 1998 End Racism Awards to:

- PAR STAR Project (People Against Racism, Standing Together Against Racism)
- Act Now Against Racism: Creating Tools for Change
- School District #68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) Race Relations Committee
- Diversity Initiatives Project
- Eracism
- O Canada!
- Organizing Against Hate

Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch

Acting Executive Director: Fern Jeffries

The Policy, Planning and Legislation Branch:

- provides policy, planning and legislation support for the ministry
- provides research and policy development for consumer protection legislation and regulations
- ensures that ministry programs and services respond to the changing needs and priorities of British Columbians
- ensures the provision of policy and administrative support for the ministry's agencies, boards and commissions
- manages the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions Division

The Agencies, Boards and Commissions Division:

- co-ordinates the relationship between government and the Ministry of Attorney General's independent agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs)

- provides ABCs with assistance in resolving policy issues and administrative problems
- provides support for commissions established by government under the Inquiry Act
- serves as the provincial responsibility centre for human rights policy.

Policy and Legislation Division

The Policy and Legislation Division:

- provides policy analysis and advice on intergovernmental, interministry and ministry initiatives
- develops and in some cases manages programs and projects that address social and justice issues
- manages the ministry's legislation program, which includes co-ordinating the miscellaneous amendment process for all of government
- leads the development of the ministry's strategic and business plans, and oversees the ministry environmental scanning and public opinion survey activities.

Consumer Policy and Programs Development Division

The Consumer Policy and Program Development Division provides:

- research and policy development with respect to such general consumer protection legislation as the Trade Practice Act, the Consumer Protection Act, and the Sale of Goods Act
- research and policy development with respect to legislation and regulations establishing rights and responsibilities for specific industries, such as residential tenancy, cemeteries and funeral services, travel agents and direct sellers
- research and analysis for federal/provincial/territorial discussions and negotiations relating to consumer protection policies and programs
- policy development for new areas of consumer protection in the B.C. marketplace
- provides the ministry executive, Deputy Minister and Attorney General with policy advice
- co-ordinates the preparation of briefing materials required by the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General for federal/provincial/territorial meetings
- oversees public legal education
- co-ordinates the review of proposals for funding under the Forfeited Crime Proceeds Fund
- manages the Employee Recognition Program.

Information and Privacy Program

The Information and Privacy Program is responsible for the overall management and co-ordination of ministry activities under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The division:

- develops ministry-wide policy and procedures to ensure consistent application of the act across the ministry
- reviews ministry legislation, policy and administrative practices to ensure compliance with the act
- processes Freedom of Information requests for most ministry branches as well as all cross-ministry and cross-government requests
- represents the ministry in cross-

Corporate Issues Division

The Corporate Issues Division is responsible for developing corporate policy responses to legal, justice, public safety and regulatory issues. The division:

government policy development, issues and initiatives and in matters involving the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

- provides ministry executive and staff, and agencies, boards and commissions under the administrative responsibility of the ministry with advice and training.

Key accomplishments

- led the development of amendments to the Family Relations Act and regulations to adopt child support guidelines and to expand the definition of "spouse" to include same-sex partners, except for division of property provisions
- led policy support for implementation of the provincial child support strategy
- developed and implemented a

Freedom of Information request tracking system to monitor requests and to produce routine and customized reports for the Information and Privacy Program, the ministry, and the Information, Science and Technology Agency (the system was subsequently installed in the Criminal Justice Branch and the Corrections Branch, and was adopted and modified by four other ministries)

- played a key role in organizing a conference, hosted and co-chaired by the Attorney General, for Canadian and American attorneys general from the Western regions to discuss cross-border crime issues
- co-ordinated the ministry's discussions with the federal government on the Contraventions Act

Public Safety and Regulatory Branch

Assistant Deputy Minister: Stephen Stackhouse

The Public Safety and Regulatory Branch works to ensure that the province's public police forces and other security-related agencies provide adequate and effective services. The branch also:

- plans and co-ordinates provincial responses to major emergencies and disasters
- audits and inspects gaming activities
- regulates the public exhibition, rental and distribution of films and videos in B.C.

Film Classification Office

The Film Classification Office regulates the public exhibition, rental and distribution of films and videos in B.C. All films shown publicly and all adult videos sold or rented through video retail outlets must be viewed and classified by the Film Classification Office, which has the authority to:

- approve or refuse the exhibition or distribution of a film or adult video
- order removal of prohibited material
- assign advisory captions that appear in all newspaper advertising of a film.

The office also:

- licenses theatres, film, video distributors, and video retailers, and conducts regular inspections of theatres and video outlets
- is responsible for maintaining community standards in film and video products distributed in B.C.
- monitors legislation, programs and court cases relating to film classification, censorship and obscenity across Canada.

Gaming Audit and Investigation Office

The Gaming Audit and Investigation Office preserves the integrity of public gaming by:

- monitoring the B.C. Gaming Commission (BCGC) and B.C. Lottery Commission (BCLC), and providing investigation services for lengthy or complex cases, or wherever there is a perception of conflict
- auditing the use of gaming funds
- performing background checks on individuals and companies involved in provincially sanctioned gaming schemes

- registering suppliers and service providers.

Key accomplishments

- established a Burnaby office in addition to the Victoria head office
- fine-tuned the electronic audit and investigation tracking system (GAITS)
- implemented a comprehensive registration program for gaming suppliers and service providers
- conducted eight audits, 150 background investigations and 41 occurrence investigations

Police Services Division

The Police Services Division:

- superintends policing and law enforcement functions in B.C.
- administers public funds required to provide police services in rural areas
- oversees the RCMP's contract policing agreements with municipalities that use the RCMP as the municipal police force
- liaises with law enforcement agencies throughout the province to support law enforcement and provincial policy initiatives
- leads policing-related legislative initiatives
- administers the photo radar program
- administers a variety of public safety and First Nations policing programs

- administers funding for the Justice Institute of B.C.'s Police Academy
- audits police board training and support.

Key accomplishments

- implemented the new Police Act, which:
 - created the Police Services Division as a statutory entity
 - expanded the authority of the Attorney General to designate new types of policing structures
 - improved the monitoring of special provincial constable activities
 - created a new police complaint process
- helped create a new Auto Theft Task Force
- managed testing of the Red Light Camera Program
- concluded two policing agreements to provide First Nations police service to Lax Kwa'laams from the Port Simpson RCMP Detachment and to the Huu-ay-aht, Hupacasath, Tseshaht and Uchucklesaht First Nations from the Port Alberni Detachment
- oversaw management of the Enhanced Speed Enforcement and CounterAttack traffic initiatives
- developed legislation for the new Emergency Communications Act

Provincial Emergency Program

The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) co-ordinates preparedness, response and recovery for emergencies and civil disasters. Responsibilities include:

- co-ordinating provincial government planning, training and standards for emergency preparedness through the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council
- advising and assisting local governments in the preparation and exercising of their emergency plans
- directing government response operations for emergencies not specifically assigned to another ministry or agency, or co-ordinating actions in support of a specific ministry
- administering the Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

Key accomplishments

- provided \$3.14 million in funding for flood protection works in flood-threatened communities
- spent \$4.65 million on response and recovery in such events as search and rescue, urban fires and minor flooding
- trained 3,088 people in search and rescue, emergency social services and emergency management through the PEP Academy at the Justice Institute of B.C.

- introduced the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) to local and provincial response agencies
- conducted Exercise Thunderbird 3, based on a simulated eruption of Mt. Baker

Security Programs Division

The Security Programs Division administers:

- the firearms control provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada
- the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act
- the Criminal Records Review Act
- the Central Registry of Protection Orders.

Key accomplishments

- issued 6,364 Firearms Acquisition Certificates and 589 firearms business permits
- trained 6,500 students in firearm safety through the Canadian Firearms Safety Course
- disposed of 5,552 firearms, conducted 116 investigations and 312 inspections, issued 4,886 basic security patrol certificates, and licensed 216 security patrol businesses
- carried out 65,542 criminal record checks

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Note: Many agencies, boards and commissions are required to report annually to the legislature. For more information, please refer to those separate reports.

Advisory Council on Multiculturalism

The Advisory Council on Multiculturalism advises the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism regarding multiculturalism issues. The 27 volunteer council members are appointed by Order in Council for a specified term. Council members represent a broad range of ethnocultural communities around the province.

B.C. Board of Parole

The B.C. Board of Parole is an independent, quasi-judicial tribunal that decides whether inmates from provincial correctional centres should be released on parole. Decisions focus on protecting the community, and furthering the positive reintegration of offenders into that community.

B.C. Coroners Service

The B.C. Coroners Service investigates sudden and/or unexpected deaths to ensure that no death is overlooked, concealed or ignored. In all such cases a public report is issued. The service's mandate is especially directed to the protection of those who are dependent on others for their care and custody.

B.C. Human Rights Advisory Council

The B.C. Human Rights Advisory Council is responsible for:

- ensuring that the public is informed about the work of the Human Rights Commission
- bringing public concerns about the human rights system in B.C. to the attention of the Attorney General and the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission

B.C. Human Rights Commission

The B.C. Human Rights Commission is an independent administrative agency established under the Human Rights Code to investigate and mediate human rights complaints in relation to

employment, services and housing in both the public and private sectors. Where appropriate, the commission refers complaints to the Human Rights Tribunal for hearing. The commission also:

- has a mandate to provide information, education and advice necessary to achieve the purposes of the Human Rights Code
- takes an active role in assisting both the government and private sector in establishing employment equity programs or other special programs that have as their objective improving conditions for disadvantaged individuals or groups.

B.C. Human Rights Tribunal

The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal is an independent quasi-judicial tribunal established under the Human Rights Code to adjudicate complaints of discrimination in relation to employment, services and housing in both the public and private sectors. The tribunal has broad remedial powers and can reinstate a dismissed employee and order monetary damages against a respondent to an unlimited amount. Its orders are enforceable in the B.C. Supreme Court.

B.C. Review Board

The B.C. Review Board:

- reviews the medical status of persons indefinitely committed to a psychiatric institution by Order in Council
- examines the circumstances of persons charged with an offence who are found by the courts to be unfit to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity
- determines what steps might be taken, considering the person's mental state and the interests of the public, towards a gradual return of the person to the community.

Children's Commission

The Children's Commission has a mandate to review and resolve complaints concerning the rights of children in care or children receiving services from the Ministry for Children and Families. The commission also:

- monitors the plans of children in care and conducts random audits
- reviews all child fatalities and investigates those found to be suspicious or unusual
- automatically investigates critical injuries of children who are receiving designated services
- provides public education and information.

Commercial Appeals Commission

The Commercial Appeals Commission hears appeals from decisions or orders made under 13 provincial statutes pertaining to cemeteries and funeral services, credit reporting, debt collection, financial institutions, mortgage brokers, motor dealers, travel agents, real estate, and societies.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Electoral Boundaries Commission is appointed intermittently under the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act to make proposals to the Legislative Assembly concerning the area, boundaries and names of the electoral districts of B.C.

Expropriation Compensation Board

The Expropriation Compensation Board, under the Expropriation Act, sets the amount of money paid for expropriated land when the settlement amount is appealed by the private landowner.

Liquor Appeal Board

The Liquor Appeal Board hears appeals on decisions of:

- the general manager of the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch relating to licensing and enforcement issues
- the general manager of the Liquor Distribution Branch relating to listing and de-listing of liquor products.

Manufactured Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee

The Manufactured Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee provides mediation services for landlords and tenants who have been unable to resolve residential tenancy disputes.

Motion Picture Appeal Board

The Motion Picture Appeal Board assists in the regulation of the film and video industry in the province. It hears appeals by exhibitors and distributors of motion pictures and videos concerning classification of films, suspensions of theatre licences, and refusals to issue theatre or film exchange licences by the Film Classification Branch.

Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund Board

The Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund Board hears and decides claims against the Motor Dealer Customer Compensation Fund. The fund was created to compensate eligible purchasers of new and used motor vehicles or extended "in house" warranty plans, who suffer a loss as a result of business failure, dishonest behaviour, or failure by a motor dealer to provide clear title.

Office of the Public Trustee

The Office of the Public Trustee protects:

- the legal rights and financial interests of children and vulnerable adults
- the estates of deceased and missing persons.

The office may also assist adults in making personal and health care decisions.

Private Investigators and Security Agencies Advisory Board

The Private Investigators and Security Agencies Advisory Board:

- advises the Attorney General on matters relating to the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act
- advises the registrar on policies, procedures and practices in administering the act
- consults with, informs and advises the private security industry about minimum standards and codes of conduct.

Residential Tenancy Arbitration Review Panel

The Residential Tenancy Arbitration Review Panel reviews decisions and orders of arbitrators under the Residential Tenancy Act. Where previously, decisions of arbitrators in rental disputes were final and binding on the parties involved, the review panel now provides landlords and tenants with an additional level of appeal.

Travel Assurance Board

The Travel Assurance Board hears and recommends claims against the Travel Assurance Fund under the Travel Agents Act. The board's seven members include representatives from the public and the

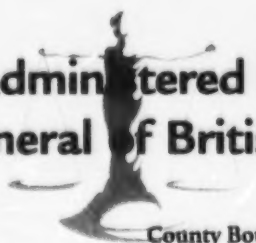
travel industry. The Travel Assurance Fund reimburses eligible consumers who have paid for but not received travel services from a B.C.-registered travel agency. The fund is administered by the Consumer Services Division of the Community Justice Branch, and funded by required contributions from eligible travel agencies.

Additional Contacts

The ministry has some contacts with and the Attorney General appoints some board members to the following agencies:

- Continuing Legal Aid Society of B.C.
- Court of Appeal Rules Committee
- Judicial Council
- Justice Development Commission
- Law Courts Education Society of B.C.
- Law Foundation of B.C. Board of Governors
- Legal Services Society
- Native Courtworkers and Counselling Association of B.C.
- Notaries Public Board of Examiners
- Notary Foundation Board of Governors
- Supreme Court Rules Committee

Acts Administered by the Attorney General of British Columbia



Adult Guardianship Act	County Boundary Act
Age of Majority Act	Court Agent Act
Attorney General Act	Court of Appeal Act
British Columbia Neurotrauma Fund Contribution Act	Court Order Enforcement Act
Cemetery and Funeral Services Act	Court Order Interest Act
Child, Family and Community Service Attorney General Act (ss. 83-88)	Court Rules Act
Child, Youth and Family Advocacy Act	Credit Reporting Act
Children's Commission Act	Criminal Injury Compensation Act
Civil Rights Protection Act	Criminal Records Review Act
Class Proceedings Act	Crown Counsel Act
Commercial Appeals Commission Act	Crown Franchise Act
Commercial Arbitration Act	Crown Proceeding Act
Commercial Tenancy Act	Curfew Act
Commissioner on Resources and Environment Act	Debt Collection Act
Condominium Act (all matters affecting powers and duties of Registrar of Titles)	Debtor Assistance Act
Conflict of Laws Rules for Trusts Act	Disciplinary Authority Protection Act
Constitution Act (except ss. 25-27)	Election Act
Constitutional Question Act	Electoral Boundaries Commission Act
Consumer Protection Act	Electoral Districts Act
Coroners Act	Emergency Communications Corporations Act
Correction Act (ss. 8, 10-12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 33, 34 (1) (a); ss. 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 34 (1) (b) (g) and (2) and 35 EXCEPT insofar as they relate to young persons as defined in s. 1 of act)	Emergency Program Act
	Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act
	Escheat Act
	Estate Administration Act
	Estates of Missing Persons Act
	Evidence Act

Expropriation Act	Land Title Act (except s. 218 (1) (d))
Family Compensation Act	Land Title Inquiry Act
Family Maintenance Enforcement Act	Land Transfer Form Act
Family Relations Act	Law and Equity Act
Federal Courts Jurisdiction Act	Law Reform Commission Act
Financial Disclosure Act	Legal Profession Act
Firearm Act	Legal Services Society Act
Flood Relief Act	Libel and Slander Act
Food Donor Encouragement Act	Limitation Act
Foreign Arbitral Awards Act	Liquor Control and Licensing Act
Foreign Money Claims Act	Members Conflict of Interest Act
Foresters Act (s. 9 (2))	Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Act (ss. 3 and 4 (a) re consumer affairs; s. 4 (b)-(d))
Fraudulent Conveyance Act	Ministry of International Business and Immigration Act (provisions re immigration)
Fraudulent Preference Act	Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services Act (ss. 2 (1), (2), (5) and (6), 3, 5, 6, 7)
Frustrated Contract Act	Motion Picture Act
Good Samaritan Act	Motor Carrier Act (s. 54)
Guide Animal Act	Motor Dealer Act
Holiday Shopping Regulation Act	Multiculturalism Act
Homestead Act	Multilevel Marketing Regulation Act
Human Rights Code	Municipal Act (Div 2 of Part 15)
Infants Act	Negligence Act
Inquiry Act	Notaries Act
International Commercial Arbitration Act	Occupiers Liability Act
International Sale of Goods Act	Offence Act
International Trusts Act	Ombudsman Act
Interpretation Act	Parole Act
Judicial Review Procedure Act	Partition of Property Act
Jury Act	
Justice Administration Act	
Land (Spouse Protection) Act	

Patients Property Act	Sale of Goods Act
Pawnbrokers Act	Senior Citizen Automobile Insurance Grant Act
Perpetuity Act	Sheriff Act
Police Act	Small Claims Act
Power of Appointment Act	Statute Revision Act
Power of Attorney Act	Statute Uniformity Act
Privacy Act	Subpoena (Interprovincial) Act
Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act	Supreme Court Act
Probate Recognition Act	Survivorship and Presumption of Death Act
Property Law Act	Trade Practice Act
Provincial Court Act	Travel Agents Act
Public Guardian and Trustee Act	Trespass Act
Public Trustee Act	Trust and Settlement Variation Act
Queen's Counsel Act	Trustee Act
Recall and Initiative Act	Trustee (Church Property) Act
Referendum Act	Victims of Crime Act
Refugee Settlement Act	Wills Act (except Part 2)
Regulations Act	Wills Variation Act
Rent Distress Act	Young Offenders (British Columbia) Act
Representation Agreement Act	
Residential Tenancy Act	

1997/98 ANNUAL BUDGET

	Budget (\$)	Staff (#)
Minister's Office	429,000	7.0
Ministry Operations		
Corporate Services	34,804,000	274.6
Court Services Branch	131,964,000	1,326.4
Legal Services Branch	16,021,000	214.2
Criminal Justice Branch	62,735,000	671.1
Community Justice Branch	123,261,000	198.2
Corrections Branch	207,942,000	2,145.2
Public Safety and Regulatory Branch	149,106,000	126.0
Land Title Branch	21,224,000	190.9
Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit	5,444,000	55.0
Multiculturalism and Immigration	8,483,000	27.9
B.C. Council of Human Rights	5,259,000	43.1
B.C. Human Rights Tribunal	982,000	2.0
Agencies, Boards and Commissions		
B.C. Police Commission	266,000	0.0
B.C. Parole Board	275,000	2.0
B.C. Board of Review	1,265,000	5.0
Children's Commission	3,085,000	21.0
Commercial Appeals Commission	168,000	1.0
Coroners	8,749,000	41.0
Expropriation Compensation Board	583,000	3.0
Law Reform Commission	99,000	2.0
Liquor Appeal Board	123,000	0.0
Motion Picture Appeal Board	5,000	0.0
Public Trustee - Voted	4,345,000	20.0

	Budget (\$)	Staff (#)
Statutory Services		
Criminal Injury Compensation Act	24,650,000	0.0
Crown Proceeding Act	10,740,000	0.0
Emergency Program Act	11,965,000	0.0
Inquiry Act	2,500,000	0.0
Valuation Allowance	2,000,000	0.0
Liquor Control and Licensing	1,000	75.0
Judiciary		
Superior Courts	9,212,000	145.0
Provincial Courts	26,791,000	202.4
Special Accounts		
Office of Public Trustee	11,135,000	162.0
Inmate Work Program	1,492,000	0.0
Forfeited Crime Proceeds	1,186,000	0.0
Victims of Crime Act	7,241,000	0.0
TOTAL MINISTRY	895,530,000	5961.0

Management Services Branch
Resource Planning and Analysis Division